

ON THE PASSING OF BOWIE CITY
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM AUGUS-
TUS ALESHIRE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mark the passing of a man that meant a great deal to the people of Maryland's Fifth Congressional District—16-year Bowie City Council veteran, William Augustus Aleshire.

Bill's life was one of service. He served his country in the Air Force through two tours in Vietnam. He served his neighbors as a Washington, DC, police officer for more than 20 years. And he served his community as a member of the Bowie City Council—and more significantly, as an impassioned leader who always thought of others before thinking of himself.

Bill was a man that truly understood what public service is all about. Those who knew him best know that he had a fondness for costumes. At Christmas, he made appearances throughout the city of Bowie as Santa Claus. At Easter, he visited local parks and hospitals as the Easter Bunny. And he even made public appearances as "McGruff the Crime Dog" to help keep Bowie's children on the right track.

I always thought of Bill as a partner in our shared pursuit to enhance the quality of life in the city of Bowie—and I know that his boisterous personality and impeccable character will be profoundly missed throughout all of Prince George's County, Maryland.

My condolences—and those of a grateful community—go out to Bill's wife, Clara, to his daughter, Emily, and to everyone whose life was touched by William Augustus Aleshire during this most difficult of times.

HONORING MRS. JUDY HANLEY OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT 105 ON HER
RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator in my district, Mrs. Judy Hanley. In June, Mrs. Hanley will retire from School District 105 after 48 years of distinguished service and leadership. Her remarkable contributions to students, colleagues, and the entire District 105 community will always be remembered and her presence will be sorely missed. As we approach the end of this school year, I would like to extend my appreciation to Mrs. Hanley for her dedication and commitment to providing quality education.

Mrs. Hanley will retire from Hodgkins Elementary School as Assistant Principal. Throughout her impressive career, she has taken an active role in the leadership of the school. Specifically, Mrs. Hanley has served on the curriculum committee, the professional development committee, and the staff development committee. In addition to Mrs. Hanley's committee positions, she has also served

as President of the School District 105 Teacher's Association. Together, these combined efforts have helped to make School District 105 a better place for staff to work and children to learn.

Mrs. Hanley's tireless work has also benefited the local Hodgkins community. She has played a leading role in organizing the local book fair and has acted as a sponsor of the annual pumpkin decorating contest—a Hodgkins tradition. In 1999, the Whispering Oak Girls Scout Council recognized Mrs. Hanley with the Woman of Distinction Award in Education and, in 2000, the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce honored Mrs. Hanley with the Millennium Award. In addition to these special awards, she was also a 1999 and 2000 Legacy Award Finalist.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Judy Hanley for her half-century of service as a dedicated educator. Throughout her career, she has shown a strong commitment to teaching and to her community. As a result of her passion, her work has significantly impacted the lives of countless students, parents, and fellow teachers alike. I thank Judy for her lifelong service to her community and wish her a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, as we prepare to celebrate Memorial Day, Congress has a duty to honor our veterans not just with our words but with our deeds. I was proud to join with colleagues on both sides of the aisle yesterday to pass legislation that will help provide our courageous veterans with the resources they have earned and deserve.

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed several pieces of legislation that address some of the new challenges facing veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

H.R. 2199, The Traumatic Brain Injury/Rural Veterans Outreach, ensures that our veterans are properly screened for Traumatic Brain Injury and receive the appropriate treatment. More than half of combat casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan have associated brain injuries, often due to improvised explosive devices. The legislation also expands VA resources to provide rural communities with "mobile vet centers" for mental health services and benefits outreach.

H.R. 612, The Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act helps ensure soldiers with mental health conditions that are often not immediately diagnosed, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, are treated by making them eligible for health care due to combat service for five years after leaving active duty.

H.R. 67, The Veterans Outreach Improvement Act (H.R. 67) allows the VA to partner with state and local governments to reach out to veterans and their families in ensuring they receive the benefits they have earned.

H.R. 2239, The Early Access to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits Act extends eligibility for rehabilitation benefits from the Veterans' Affairs Department.

Finally, H.R. 1470, The Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act requires that chiropractic care and services be provided to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

Since January, the new Democratic-led Congress has worked to honor veterans by improving veterans' health care, strengthening benefits for our men and women in uniform today, and providing long-overdue benefits for the veterans and military retirees who have already served. I was proud to support the measures we passed yesterday as well as any legislation that will improve benefits and services for our brave men and women in uniform and our veterans.

IN HONOR OF TOM FAT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tom Fat, a dedicated civic leader in San Diego. Tom passed away on May 17, 2007 and is survived by his wife Jenny, daughter Monica, sisters Jean Ann Lai and Mable Moffatt of Sacramento, brothers Dr. Kenneth Fat and Jerry Fat of Sacramento, and two grandchildren.

Tom was born in 1940 and grew up working in the family restaurant in Sacramento, California. The Fat City chain is anchored by Frank Fat's, which became a hangout for politicians and lobbyists in our State's capital. At an early age his father, Frank Fat, instilled in him and his siblings a strong work ethic and commitment to civic involvement.

Tom graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in business, attained a law degree from Hastings School of Law and received his master's of law in taxation at New York University. He also served for 3 years as a captain in the U.S. Army.

After practicing law in Los Angeles for a few years, Tom joined his family in Sacramento to help operate their successful restaurant business. In 1976 Tom visited San Diego to research business opportunities and moved there the following year to operate China Camp, which fused Chinese cuisine with Western style cooking, and Frank Fat's, which was renamed Fat City Steakhouse—still a popular place for local government leaders to come together.

The success of Tom's restaurants assisted in the growth and development of downtown San Diego and the revival of the Little Italy community, which helped to link the area between San Diego International Airport and the city center.

Not only was Tom's entrepreneurship inspiring to all those around him, but his civic leadership was truly commendable. As an avid community leader, Tom served as the Chairman of the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau, President of the San Diego Restaurant Association, Director of the San Diego Film Commission and as a member of the Little Italy Association.

He worked in the Asian Pacific Islander community to mentor youth to encourage their participation in civic affairs and the political process. Tom developed strong relationships with political leaders of both parties and built